The establishment of any college of Ayurveda, Siddha or Unani after 7th November, 2003 and after 28th January, 2003 in case of Homoeopathic Courses **without prior permission of the Government of India** would not be valid for providing recognized qualification for medical practice.

The students/applicants while taking admission in any college referred to at (a) must ensure and satisfy themselves that the new Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani or Homoeopathy College in which they are seeking admission is duly permitted by the Government of India.

The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Act, 2003 also provides that all Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha Colleges which were established prior to 7th November, 2003, shall obtain permission of the Central Government by 6th November, 2006.

The list of recognized Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha Colleges may be downloaded from the website of Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM): www.ccimindia.org. The list of recognized Homoeopathy Colleges may be downloaded from the website of Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH): www.cchindia.com.

Secretary,
Department of Ayurveda, Yoga &
Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy,
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of India

Rise in prices of essential commodities

*154. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the hardships being faced by the public at large on account of abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities in general and specially of onion and other vegetables during the months of October and November, 2005;

(b) if so, the specific reasons for the steep rise in prices of all the commodities which had hurt the lower strata of the Society; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) During the months of October and November 2005, prices of onion increased on account of lower arrivals in major wholesale markets in the country in October, 2005 due to erratic and excessive rainfall particularly in major onion growing States of Maharashtra and Gujarat which adversely affected the kharif onion crops in those States. Prices of potato increased due to lower level of kharif crop in Maharashtra and Karnataka largely because of inadequate and delayed rains. Prices of all other essential commodities by and large remained stable.

Government and its agencies are implementing several schemes intended to enhance production of, *inter alia*, onion and potato. The more important schemes are given below:-

(i) Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission since May, 2005.

(ii) The National Horticulture Board is implementing schemes such as

(a) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management;

(b) Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Modernisation/ Expansion of Cold Storage and Storages for Horticulture Produce; and

(c) Technology Development and Transfer for Promotion of Horticulture.

MSP for Rajasthan crops

†*155. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether there is any scheme to buy main crops from Rajasthan such as gwar, corriander, cumin, isabgol, onion and garlic at support price?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): These crops are not covered under the scheme of Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed by the Government for major agricultural crops. However, the Government implements the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural and perishable agricultural commodities. In order to protect the growers of such commodities, MIS is implemented for a particular commodity on the request of the State Government, provided

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.